

Fire Captain Retires In Los Angeles

10-14-39
By LAWRENCE F. LaMAR

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Oct. 13— Leaving a high office in the Los Angeles fire department vacant for a younger man, Capt. S. Bailey member of Engine Company No. 14 stepped down from the post of captain last week to end 22 years of service with the department.

A banquet was given the veteran fireman Tuesday at the fire house

Battalion Chief Cecil H. Virden presided at the banquet and eulogized the retiring fire fighter for maintaining an unblemished record throughout his 22 years as a member of the department. Chief Virden, cited the man's record, revealing that he had never been late once during the long years, or ever been called on the "carpet."

Night Chief J. W. Wilson, participated in the ceremonies as did members of the two Race companies, and several members of white companies, comprising the Fourth Battalion district.

Captain Bailey is the father of two stalwart sons, one of whom is a student at Jefferson high school. Captain Bailey, himself, is a product of the Los Angeles public school system.

Appointment Of Race Cop Is Celebrated

race. "I solemnly pledge," he said, "I'll never betray the trust they have put in me."

Mr. Custis was graduated from Howard University, Washington, D. C., in 1937, with a bachelor of science degree. He majored in chemistry and mathematics.

At college he was an outstanding member of the swimming team.

Legend
HARTFORD, Conn., Nov. 10—Ap-
pointment of the first Race person
to the police department of the city
of Hartford was celebrated at a
testimonial dinner Tuesday for
Lemuel Custis at the home of the
Charter Oak Elks' lodge here.

Mr. Custis was appointed a su-
pernumerary in September. Guests
of honor were Police Chief John
J. Butler and Joseph J. Shapiro,
president of the Police board.

Mr. Custis told the group that he
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First Race Officer Is Appointed

Common
11-11-39
HARTFORD, Conn., Nov. 9—Ap-
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to the police department of the city
of Hartford was celebrated by
local race residents at a testimonial
dinner last week for Lemuel Cus-
tis at the Charter Oak Lodge for
Colored Elks here.

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Asks Colored Policewoman In Wilmington

Also Requests Colored
Person Be Named To
Fire Bureau

WILMINGTON, Del.—The appointment of a colored policewoman was requested by a delegation of members of the Tatnall Street Branch of the YWCA, headed by Mrs. Elberta Williams, executive secretary, in a petition presented to the Director of Public Safety, last Wednesday.

The delegation declared such a policewoman would be able to obtain more convictions in cases affecting the colored youth, especially in cases where intoxicating liquors are being sold to minors. The directors referred the petition to Superintendent of Public Safety Andrew J. Kavanaugh for consideration.

Another delegation of members of the Civic Association of 212 East 13th street, headed by Edward Chippey, submitted a petition signed by more than 100 persons asking that some qualified colored citizens be appointed to the Bureau of Fire. They pointed out that there are several colored policemen but no colored firemen. This petition also was referred to Superintendent Kavanaugh.

Colored Groups Act to Save Rookie Policeman's Job

On behalf of Policeman Owen Curtis, colored, of the Third Precinct, who has just completed his probationary appointment, the United States District Court was asked by representatives of colored civic associations yesterday to enjoin the Commissioner and the superintendent of police from terminating his service on the police force.

Curtis was cited by Capt. Arthur Miller, of the Tenth Precinct, on two occasions, failing to pull his box on time and on one occasion remaining in an apartment unduly long. He appeared before the Police Trial Board June 17 with counsel, John J. McGinnis.

The case was not heard then, but on June 20 Curtis received notice that his services would be discontinued on June 30. As there has been no hearing, the Federation of Civic Associations protested the action.

Only 39 of 1,340 D. C. Officers Are Colored

WASHINGTON, D. C.— Only 39 of the 1,340 policemen on the District force are colored and only 17 out of 871 firemen belong to the Race.

These figures, and others on the status of the Race in the nation's capital, are given in the first issue of the New Alliance Year Book, off the press this week.

While the colored population of the District is a little more than 25 per cent of the whole, the employment of police is only 2.8 per cent.

Deland, Fla., Sun News
November 10, 1939

Negro Policeman Is Dismissed By Stone

Police Chief George Stone announced today that Mitchell "Honey" Wilson, local Negro policeman for several years, would be "paid off" tomorrow and replaced at least temporarily by B. D. Brooks.

Reason for the dismissal was not stated by the police chief. Brooks has served as a special officer in the colored sections on several occasions, Stone said.

Negro Policemen Not Rare Beings

While the suit to open Norfolk's police examinations to colored men is pending in the United States District Court, the Journal and Guide will refrain from editorial comment on the merits of the action.

Nevertheless, in view of expressed apprehension that the suit jeopardizes race relations, we think it proper that we should emphasize the fact that the colored policeman is not a new thing; no, not even in the South.

Prior to his retirement sometime ago as specialist on Negro statistics in the United States Bureau of the Census, Charles E. Hall of Washington issued reports showing that at that period there were 1,264 colored policemen and 33 policewomen in the United States. *12-9-39*

These figures on the country's law enforcement machinery did not include detectives, marshals, deputy sheriffs, or constables.

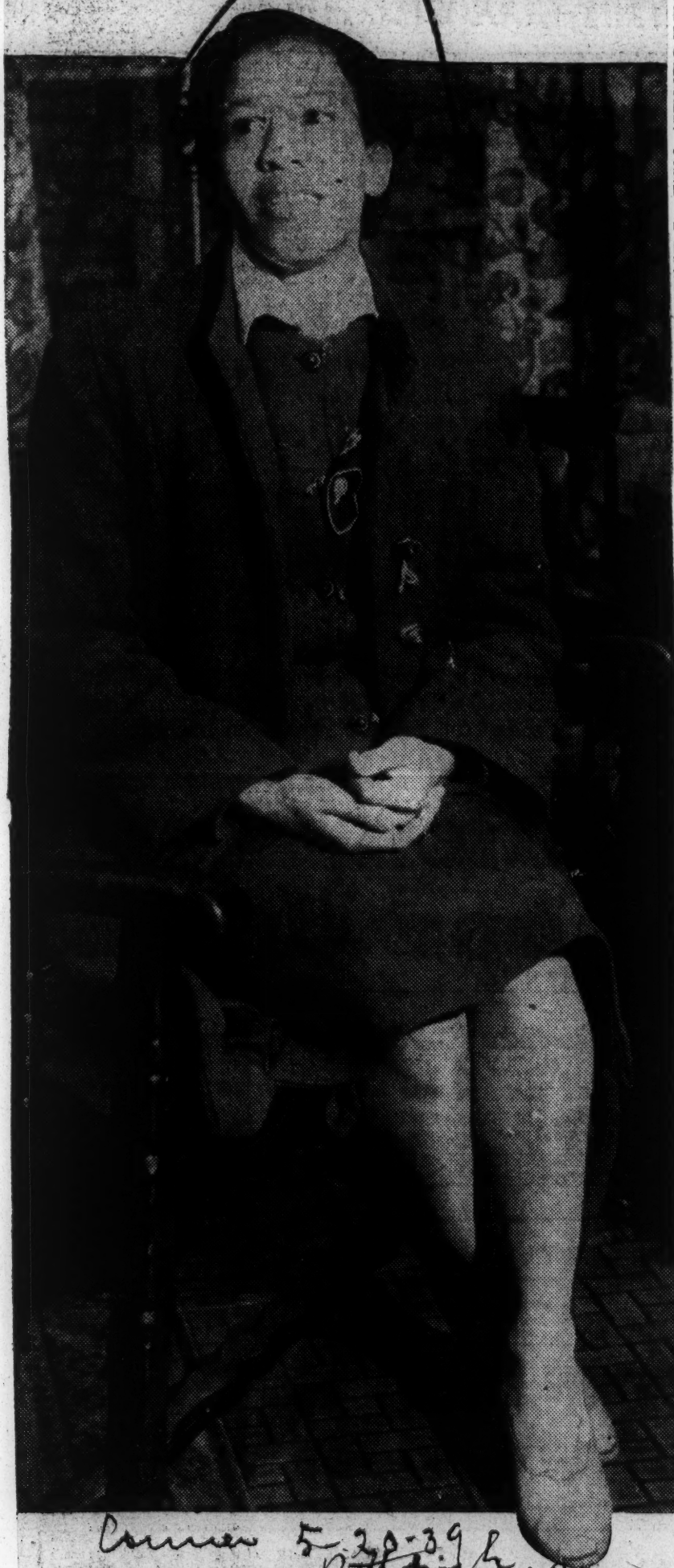
Haystack
Sixty-three colored officers were found in nine southern states, viz: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Tennessee.

Missouri had 51, Maryland had 14, with 1 in Baltimore, but not long ago the Monumental City added 3, although they did not work in uniform.

It is interesting to note that the 1930 Census listed one colored woman sheriff, 157 detectives, 144 deputy sheriffs, 80 marshals and constables.

FIRST COLORED POLICEWOMAN

POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN - 1939



ILLINOIS

Cover 5-20-39
Washington, Ill.
Mrs. Inez Darling Washington, 2015 Foster avenue, Evanston, Ill., has the distinction of being the first woman of her race to win an appointment to a position in the police department of that town. Her appointment was made by virtue of the fact that she headed the civil service list after the first appointee was too ill to take the position. Friends of Mrs. Washington, who is 28, witty and modest, claim that she is destined to make a record for herself in the department. —Adams photo.

FIREMEN 'SPRUCE UP' FOR INSPECTION



Defender 12-2-39 Chicago, Ill.

It was annual inspection time around Engine Company No. 19 over on Rhodes avenue at Thirty-fifth street this week, and the 19 members of the Chicago Fire department tidied up everything around the station, including themselves. Straight as soldiers they stand

HERITAGE BRINGS A NEGRESS TO OFFICIAL POST

Illinois 12-3-39
Mrs. Bertina Davis Now

Deputy Sheriff.

queathed a heritage of politics. For 13 years, it made her a leader.

But this fall a new statute and the old inheritance combined to make her, in addition, a pioneer. She was sworn in as the first Negro woman deputy sheriff in Illinois—and probably in the United States.

Memories of the little girl who tagged along behind her father to the roaring rallies down Baltimore way, clung with her while she moved with her husband from Philadelphia to New York to Los Angeles. Then came Chicago, and the recollections spurred her to action. She became the Democratic captain of the 64th precinct in the 4th ward 13 years ago.



*Mrs. Bertina Davis
[Gibson Photo.]*

here, with sparkling buttons and mirror-shined shoes, while being inspected by the battalion chief and other high fire department officials. How they rated? Swell! Grant Chaney is acting captain of the unit.—Gushniere photo.

For 10 years also, until she attained her new position, she worked in the county recorder's office.

Bows to Woman.

Illinois finally bowed to woman this summer, acknowledging that she might as well express her opinion on juries. So male deputies in the courtrooms received new colleagues—women deputy sheriffs to assist them where women were serving on the jury. Thru action of Sheriff Thomas J. O'Brien, Ward Committeeman Joseph P. Geary, and Mayor Kelly, Mrs. Davis was appointed one of the first.

In her new position, moreover, she helped write the first page in a new phase of Illinois court procedure. In Judge Daniel Trude's court she served while the first all-woman jury in Chicago heard a case. Nov. 1 she was assigned to Judge Ray D. Henson's Circuit courtroom.

Mrs. Davis was surprised recently

with a testimonial dinner by the Triple Sodality group of which she is president. This is composed of the sodalities of St. Anselm's, Corpus Christi, and St. Elizabeth's parishes.

Reads Special Poem.

As one of the tokens of esteem Mrs. Lottie Dixon recited a poem which she had composed especially for Mrs. Davis on behalf of Our Lady of Perpetual Help sodality of St. Anselm's. Adding another to Mrs. Alberta Franklin, vice president of the Triple sodality, announced her appointment as a member of the national advisory board of Women's Parish sodalities and field secretary for the Colored Catholics of the United States.

High mass will be celebrated at 11:30 o'clock, Dec. 10, in the St. Elizabeth's church at the request of the Christian Mothers' sodality for her spiritual and temporal welfare

in her new position.

An attractive, forceful woman, who looks much too young to be a grandmother, she explains that the family heritage of politics evidently stops with her. Neither her husband nor her two daughters reveal any leanings in that direction.

Another leader who proves the opportunity for her race, she ranks also as president of the West End Regular Democratic Woman's club and as prefect of the Corpus Christi Altar and Rosary sodality.

POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN-1939

Negro Detective For Kansas City

Kansas City, Kansas is one of the fastest growing urban communities west of the Mississippi. That its expansion in industry and business is well underway needs no further comment. It is expected that as the city expands, the people become more urban minded. Its advance offers inducement for newcomers. Also with an expansion program, our problems of social control become more complex and it is necessary to equip ourselves to meet the demands of the times. Kansas City, Kansas has 15,000 or more Negroes living along with other citizens and carrying on their activity, and in our race group as well as others, the crook and the cunning criminal move about and have their being. In order to match wits with the smooth working criminal in the Negro race, Negro detectives are needed because of their close relationship and primary contact. This statement is made without any reflection on detectives of other color, but in frankness for a population of 15,000 or more where there is a possibility for crimes to be committed and the criminal allowed to evade the law. Negro detectives know their people, they know where, when and how to get the low down and information often refused men of another color. In most cases, Negroes become skeptical whenever police officers and detectives of the other race come around and usually button their lips and refuse to give out information. Sometimes the work of a detective takes him into the most fashionable society and even to the church as well as the slums to track down criminals. A white detective could get very little information at a colored church even tho the criminal might do most of the shouting or at a formal dance where the smooth criminal might dance by him and even step on his toes. Negro detectives in a city as large as Kansas City, Kansas are needed and we sincerely hope that our Mayor will see fit to find some funds for such a purpose and appoint some Negro detectives.

Policewoman *Afro-American* Is Promoted

Mrs. Whyte Earns Highest Rank as Private; Gets Boost in Pay

BALTIMORE

Mrs. Violet Hill Whyte, Baltimore's first colored policewoman, stepped up a rung this week when she was promoted to grade one, with an advance in pay as a full-fledged police officer.

Grade one is the highest status a police officer can hold beneath the rank of sergeant. This month, she enters into her third year and, as Captain King pointed out, with a fine record as an officer and the respect and confidence of her associates in the police department.

Is Highly Praised

Captain Lawrence King of the Northwestern police station, told the AFRO-AMERICAN that Policewoman Whyte has made a fine record as an officer and fully deserved the credit she has received. "I am proud of her, for she has done a wonderful job," he stated.

Policewoman Whyte, who was appointed to the Baltimore police department in December, 1937, was at the time one of the outstanding welfare clubwomen of the country and president of the Ingham Community Child Study Association of Baltimore.

Her appointment came as a result of the policy of former Governor Harry W. Nice, which opened the door of the police department to colored appointees for the first time in Maryland.

Induction Elaborate

Mrs. Whyte's induction into office was a city-wide event and brought together at the Northwestern police station leaders in all walks of life.

Even some of her friends wondered how the modest and unassuming mother and member of one of the most outstanding families of Maryland would react to the strenuous business of policing.

Their fears soon disappeared when she began to appear in court with some of the toughest and most complicated cases on the docket.

Conditions Improved

In the two years in which she has been an officer, the conditions in public places affecting the

82 Register in Police School

BALTIMORE

With eighty-two aspirants registered, the 1939 session of the police school being conducted by the Maryland League of Colored Republican Voters got off to a good start on Tuesday night.

Edward N. Wilson, dean of the school, stated this week that the group pushed off immediately in the study of locations and the geography of the city.

Covers Wide Field

With the additional studies in English, mathematics, civics and related subjects, the course is designed not only to prepare men for police examinations, but other civil service posts as well.

Marse S. Callaway, who founded the school, and a large staff of lecturers on various subjects are also assisting in the work of conducting the school.

The proposed police school, announced by another group two weeks ago, has been abandoned for the present, it was learned this week.

Any young man in good health, between the ages of 25 and 35, weighing at least 150 pounds and who is 5 feet, 10 inches in height, is eligible to register. Classes are held in the Sunday school room of Madison Street Presbyterian Church.

3 Take Exam for Cops in Capital

By Staff Correspondent

ANNAPOLIS—For the first time in the history of this historical town, three colored youths, at this week, came a step nearer to their goal—the police force.

On Thursday, March 16, Franklin Smith, Robert Pointer, and John Russell applied to and received from Mrs. Catherine Linthicum, city clerk, applications for the examination to be held the following day. The test was conducted by Police Commissioner Thomas J. Basil.

Charles Oliver Is Sponsor

At the present time Annapolis, the State capital and home of the U.S. Naval Academy, is policed by a force of fifteen men receiving a monthly salary as patrolmen of \$110.

From authentic sources it was learned that Charles A. Oliver, for ten years city alderman, has been active behind the scenes in stirring up an interest among colored youth to take the tests. It was also learned that much encouragement has been injected into the cause by the record set by the four persons appointed to the police force in Baltimore.

Mr. Oliver, in addition to being a political spearhead in this town, is a director of the Annapolis Water Company; treasurer of the board of managers at the Maryland Training School for Girls at Glenburnie, and last August was elected national grand trustee of Elks.

Detroit Boasts Unique Setup as Race Center

Ex-Hamptonian Holds Office of Deputy Sheriff

(Staff Correspondence)

DETROIT, Mich. — Detroit, the Motor City, boasts more than just being the hub of the motor industry, although it is undisputable that motor vehicles made the city what it is.

Ranking fourth among the largest cities of the country, Detroit has an unique set-up in its business and political circles. It ranks at the top of the heap because of the conspicuous absence of flagrant racial prejudice and discrimination.

This can be attributed to the political activities and the business acumen of its colored citizens, who cooperate, not to make jobs and employment for Negroes, but to get a man's share in whatever sphere other are employed.

FRONTS OWN BUSINESS

The Negro businessman of Detroit is different from that of most large cities, in that he does not front for the white man, the Jew or other nationalities, but masterminds his own business, whether the legitimate or illegitimate.

While this article was intended for the purpose of furnishing readers of the Journal and Guide with highlights of personalities it was found appropriate to minutely review the above highlights.

A HAMPTONIAN

The discussion hinges around Deputy Sheriff Petry Fisher, 38, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, who also formerly attended Hampton Institute, at Hampton, Va., where he played in the famous Hampton band in 1915-16-17.

He later graduated from the Detroit Institute of Technology and studied one year in the Detroit College of Law.

Mr. Fisher was formerly an investigator for the Michigan State Liquor Control Commission. Later, he was appointed to the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, the youngest man on the board, and

Deputy Sheriff



PETRY "PETE" FISHER, former student at Hampton Institute, Va., who is now deputy sheriff of Wayne County, Michigan, with headquarters in Detroit. The Sheriff's staff consists of 160 men with 18 of them colored.

the only race appointee.

Working under Sheriff Thomas C. Wilcox, he ranks No. one under Bernice McGrath, under sheriff and chief deputy, with 17 colored deputies under him. The sheriff's staff is composed of 160 men, 18 of whom are colored.

Deputy Sheriff Fisher heads the process department. He handles all warrants, court procedures, subpoenas, bank garnishments and other legal proceedings relative to his office.

He is strongly identified with the Michigan political machine, and has been instrumental in having the list of county and city employees raised to its present high level.

A few of the other positions held by colored in Detroit include the following:

Lawrence A. Williams is Lieutenant Detective, Bert Williams, custodian of jail property; Ben Pelham, chief auditor of Wayne County; Victor Hicks, clerk of circuit court; J. H. Hinton, court bailiff; there are eight colored guards in the Wayne County jail, and 40 city policemen.

The sheriff's office has four colored teletype operators, while Leon Miller is rated as being the only colored expert actively engaged in any identification bureau in the country. He is assistant to Earl Moore, regarded as an outstanding finger print and photographic expert who was formerly with J. Edgar Hoover, chief of G-men.

EDUCATIONAL TOUR

A tour of the Wayne County set-up is an education within itself, and can be appreciated best through the eye. Among its other pleasing features are two jail matrons, one white and one colored.

Your correspondent had the privilege of inspecting the seven-story jail and personally meeting the men mentioned above, including Jack Dickstein, chief investigator, who told of having visited the Old Dominion, and Louis Wagner, chief turnkey, who once worked on a barge running out of Norfolk.

...But back to Petry "Pete" Fisher. He is not a pigmy by any means. He stands about six feet three and weighs around 240 pounds. He is the brother of Mrs. H. B. Taliaferro, the wife of Attorney Taliaferro, a native of Gloucester, Va., who at present is a partner in the law firm of Taliaferro and Roxborough. Mr. Roxborough is a brother of John Roxborough, one of the Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis' managers.

Are St. Louis Police Officials Planning On Letting Negro Squad Die From Neglect?

Detachment in Secret Service Division Was Once Up to 12 Men—Now There Are Only Seven.

ST. LOUIS, Apr. 27—(Special)—Are St. Louis Police officials deliberately planning on letting the Negro detachment of the Secret Service Department die a natural death?

That is a question that is puzzling the minds of many St. Louisans following the failure to appoint new men although there have been two deaths within the past three months, namely Lieut. Ira L. Cooper and his veteran assistant, Charles Budd Johnson. At the time of his death it is reported, Officer Johnson was scheduled for a promotion. It is also recalled that the appointment has been made to fill the vacancy left by the death of Lieut. Cooper, although another veteran officer, Detective Sergeant Clarence Lee has been nominally filling that post since his passing. He was also in active charge of the detachment during the six months of semi-inactivity of Lieut. Cooper prior to his death.

At one time there were 12 men in the secret service or plainclothes division. Now that number has been reduced to seven. When 24 candidates applied for places in the police training school that opened several weeks ago, only two of the group were among the 58 young men chosen as probationary patrolmen. This happened in spite of the fact that prior to Lieut. Cooper's death, no replacements had been made in spite of five deaths in the Negro personnel of the police force. Officials have failed to appoint Negro applicants at previous schools.

Enviably, indeed, has been the record compiled by the Negro detectives of St. Louis and the Negro public is becoming aroused over the seeming neglect accorded by police officials in this matter. Under the present set-up it is impossible for three full squads of detectives to do efficient work. The staff is undermanned and there is no one to be blamed, it is pointed out, but the city officials responsible for appointments and promotions.

ALL-COLORED ENGINE COMPANY

During the course of his address at the dedication of the new Gamble Community Center last Sunday, Mayor Dickmann took time out to have the members of all-colored engine company to stand as exhibit number one of achievement for the Negroes under his administration. The mayor seemed to be proud of this accomplishment during his administration, and we were proud, too. There are other departments in the city government, Mr. Mayor, that we would like to see manned by all-colored, before the end of your present administration, which will be in keeping with your promises before you were elected mayor of this city—thanks.

First Negro Police Chaplain Named in New York By Mayor

Rev. John H. Johnson, Whose Church Was Destroyed
By Fire, Gets Post Paying \$1,980 a Year.

By EDGAR T. ROUZEAU
Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Mar. 9—The first colored police chaplain in New York State was named here Thursday by Mayor LaGuardia, in the person of the Rev. John M. Johnson, pastor of St. Martin's P. E. Church in Harlem, which was razed by a mysterious fire on January 19. The post pays \$1,980 a year.

Rev. Johnson, the son of a minister, whose memory is still revered by thousands, inherited his father's warm personality and conviction.

Those who had worshiped at St. Cyprian's P. E. Church, pastored by the elder Rev. Johnson, moved to Harlem as the population shifted and joined the congregation at St. Martin's.

The youthful pastor made a number of valuable friends who were able to intercede in his behalf with Mayor LaGuardia, who appointed him a member of the New York State Commission on the Condition of the Colored Urban Population. He also served with the Mayor's Commission which investigated the causes of the 1939 riots, and was head, for a time, of a Harlem job campaign group. Two years ago he was an unsuccessful candidate for City Councilman, but polled an impressive vote.

His congregation is worshipping in temporary quarters at 120th street and Lenox avenue while St. Martin's is being rebuilt.

PHYSICAL COURAGE

THE DEATH OF Patrolman Allen J. Benton of the New York Police Department, reported in The New York Age last week, recalls the fact that the Negro has not had an easy time in gaining the foothold he has in that department of the city government. The few early pioneers in the Police Department not only had to face the hazards of their jobs but they also had to endure the sneers and invectives of the white patrolmen and officers who did not want them there.

The late Patrolman Benton was in a small measure responsible for the breaking up of the custom of calling Negro patrolmen by insulting names in the station houses. Reporting for duty one morning, the desk lieutenant addressed Benton with the insulting term "nigger", and so incensed was the plucky patrolman that he reached across the desk, yanked the lieutenant to him and threatened to smash his face if he repeated the term. Other policemen in the station house quickly rescued the frightened lieutenant and quieted Benton.

Charges were preferred against Benton for insubordination but, at the same time the order went forth that no more such insulting remarks should be made against the Negroes on the force. Thus it was that Benton's rashness and personal courage succeeded in breaking up a bad practice where saner methods would not have prevailed.

The story had a happy ending for Benton also, for while the charges against him were pending, a new commissioner was appointed and as a gesture of good will all pending charges against members of the force were wiped off the record and dismissed.

Far too many of the more educated class among us lack the personal courage necessary to end many of the evil practices from which we suffer. We shrink from physical combat, even when we know we are in the right and as a result of our cowardice more aggressive groups take advantage of us.

The Negro needs more people willing to fight for his rights.

Negro Patrolmen

Arrest Sheriff
Black patrolmen
11-25-39

NEWARK, N. J., Nov.—(ANP) Essex county was sent into one of the wildest hysterias in history Monday evening when two colored men representing Police headquarters walked into a police station with John Suchodolski of Jersey City, and Sheriff Henry Young of Essex county, both white, under arrest. The officers were Detective Carlton Norris and patrolman James Thigpen.

The arrest of the sheriff came as a result of a collision of his automobile with that of Suchodolski, who claimed that the sheriff struck his car first which was parked on a street in front of a thickly populated Negro section.

Colored Fire-Eaters Watch Over White Carolina Town

**Warrenton Boasts
Only All-Colored
Fire Department**

**Entire Staff Can
Man \$4,000 Truck
Recently Bought**

(Staff Correspondence)

WARRENTON, N. C.—The distinction of being the only town in North Carolina where the entire fire department is composed of race men is held by this town.

Since its organization in 1868 the complete personnel has been colored. At times fire departments from other nearby towns have been called, but by the time they arrived the fire was already extinguished by the local department or so nearly extinguished that the outsiders were of no help. Not yet has it been necessary for a white person to put a drop of water on a fire in Warrenton.

A prize possession of the company is the first fire wagon used here. It was made by J. E. Ransome, a colored man.

Just a few months ago when the fire truck was purchased by the city members of the other race sought to gain control of the department but were flatly refused and the truck, a four thousand dollar job, was turned over to the company which has since that time handled it successfully.

Only one demonstration was necessary by the factory representative and at present each member of the company can operate the truck. Other equipment of the company includes two reels and around sixteen hundred feet of hose.

A movement is on foot now to purchase uniforms for the company to replace the old ones. Already sixty dollars have been raised among the race citizens and around one hundred dollars has been received from white citizens. It is hoped that these new uniforms will be received in time for the annual state convention to be held in Elizabeth City later in the summer.

Warrenton fire department has always attended the state conventions and has been aided by the

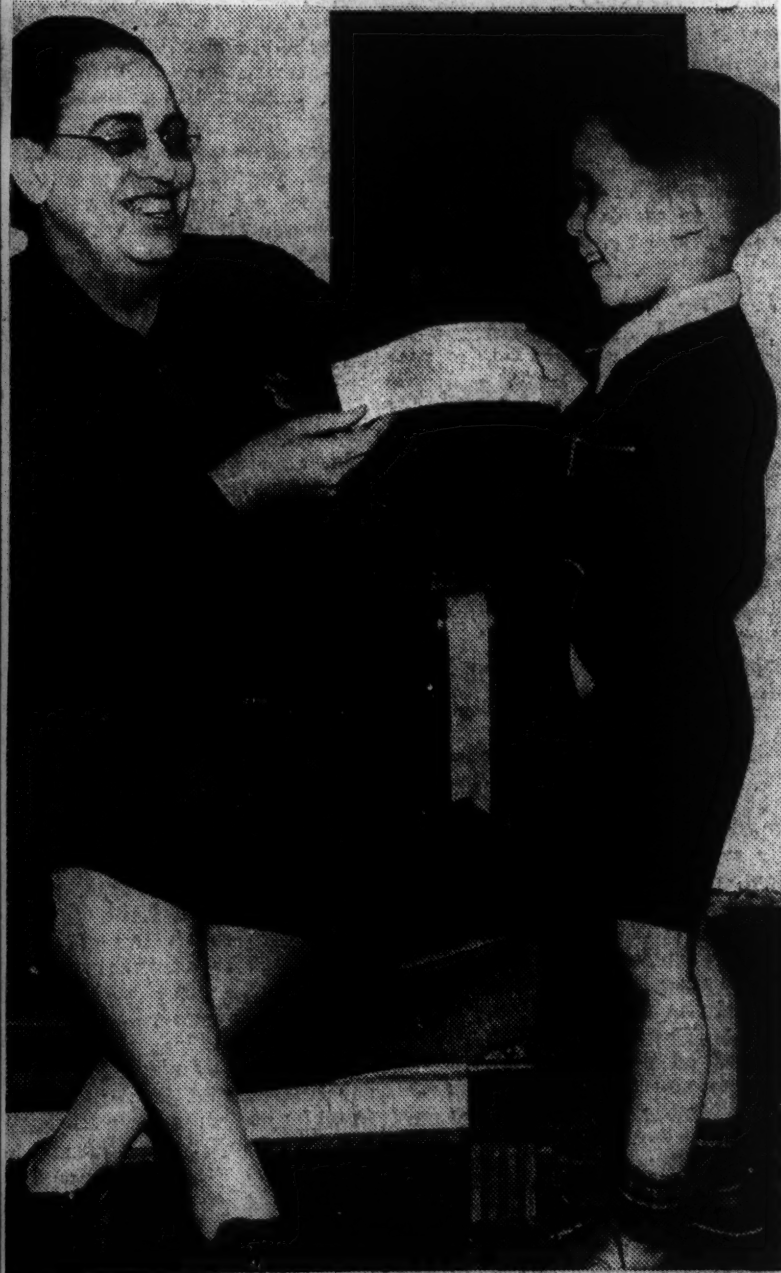
city at that time by a donation of two hundred and fifty dollars for expenses and fun.

J. L. Harris is foreman of the department, H. H. Revis is secretary and Harvey Brown is treasurer. J. B. Plummer, chaplain of the local group is vice-president of the state organization.

The company is composed of 20 active and four honorary members. They are: J. L. Harris, Otis M. Terry, H. H. Revis, Percell Moss, Harvey Brown, J. B. Plummer, Tom Branch, Johnny Sommerville, Jack Alston, Stephen B. Terry, Marvin Stevenson, Nathaniel Brown, Harry Taylor, Edward Bryant, John Burchett, Lonnie Ellis, Jessie Alston, Willie Carroll, Thomas Small and Charles Taylor.

Honorary members are: Peter Collins, M. W. Alston, Sam Snead and W. M. Perry.

JUNIOR POLICE GET FREE SHOW



Mrs. Ruth E. Irven, policewoman and assistant to L. M. Shaw, director of the bureau in Columbus, is shown above as she receives a check from Master Timothy Treadwell Jr., four years old. The Friendly Service Bureau of the Columbus Police Department received personal donation for a free show for over 15,000 members of the Junior Safety League. The donation was made by Timothy, Jr., just before he left for Arizona for the winter and expressed the desire to make these boys and girls happy before leaving.—Photo by West.

Ohio To Appoint Negro Highway Patrolmen In 1940

Plain Dealer 12-29-39

CLEVELAND, Dec. 29 (ANP)—The wave of indignation, fortnight ago, which followed the declaration of Col. Lynn Eick, highway patrol superintendent, that Negroes would not be made patrolmen even though they are civil service eligibles brought results this week.

It was learned that Patrol Commissioner Lawrence O. Payne had received a letter from Robert S. Beightler, director of the Ohio department of highways, in which the director assures the appointment of a colored eligible to the patrol in 1940. There are reportedly three eligibles: Harold Johnson, Edward Murray and Earl Redd. It was concerning the appointment of Johnson that Superintendent Eick had previously written to State Representative Chester K. Gillespie, declaring the department would not employ Negroes.

Following the protest by Gillespie, Payne, editor of Cleveland's Call Post, and others, Governor John W. Bricker and Director Beightler gave the matter their immediate attention and instituted an investigation. Beightler said he had not authorized issuance of the jim crow order, and the Governor said that if Johnson was proved eligible, he would be appointed. If one of the three eligibles are placed, Ohio will be the first state in the Union to have a Negro highway patrolman.

Flood of Xmas Baskets to Aid Plight of Needy Folk

With the Christmas holidays lasting two days, Sunday and Monday, many local organizations are bending every effort to see that enough provisions will be provided in the homes of the needy to bring Christmas cheer to these unfortunate folks.

THE CLEVELAND HERALD'S distribution of baskets will take place on Saturday morning, covering a list of families whose needs are known to be great — but who have not been receiving public aid.

Decision to call off the proposed Benefit Musical set for Wednesday night at Shiloh Baptist Church was made by the management of THE HERALD when it was found inexpedient to permit Vernon Williams to continue in charge of the effort and it was not possible at that late hour to obtain the services of a competent person to carry on the affair.

The thanks of THE HERALD goes out to Rev. Dr. A. L. Boone of Shiloh Baptist who offered the use of his auditorium and to several musical organizations who were to participate.

Funds for the HERALD BASKETS were augmented by assistance from the Meisel Tire Co., The Euclid Avenue Temple, Barlett R. Brickner, Rabbi; County Recorder Donald Lybarger, and several others who desire to remain incognito.

Distribution of 25 baskets was also planned by the Benedict Club, which for a number of years has annually spread their Christmas cheer. Names of those to receive baskets were obtained by the club committee, consisting of Suvare Perchman, Carson R. Comedy, and William Mosely, from the Wilson Relief office. Leland D. French is president of the club.

Others planning to distribute baskets are the One Hundred Percent League, Mt-Ty Majestic Lodge, Rodger Price and William Pierson of the Log Cabin, and "Roots" Mitchell.

'No Place For Negro' In Ohio Highway Patrol Service

Ohio Governor Gets Protests Over Police Head's Jim Crow Employment Tactics.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 21.—The refusal of Ohio's highway patrol superintendent to appoint a Negro who had passed the state civil service examination, to the state's highway patrol service because there is "no place for them"

in this department of police work, drew a scathing statement from Grant Reynolds, president of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In a strong letter of protest to Gov. John W. Bricker, Mr. Reynolds said:

"The Cleveland branch of the N.A.A.C.P. is alarmed, insulted and outraged over a statement made in a letter written by Col. Lynn Black, superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, to Representative Chester K. Gillespie. In this letter a public servant, such as I presume Col. Black to be, makes the following statement: 'I believe you can understand there is a place in enforcement work for colored people in city police departments where there are certain colored sections to be policed. However, this condition does not exist in state highway patrol work. Therefore, it has been necessary to turn down in several cases the application of men who have applied for patrol positions, belonging to the colored race.'"

The N.A.A.C.P. president called upon the governor to correct this situation." Gov. Bricker, who is reputed to be an active 1940 Presidential candidate, also received a strong letter from the national office of the N.A.A.C.P., asking him "what action you as chief executive of Ohio, propose to take in this shameless negation of all of the principles of competitive civil service, procedure and of human decency."

Tulsa's Negro Police Woman

In keeping with the editorial we wrote last week regarding additions to the police force in the Negro section of Oklahoma City, we note that the police department in Tulsa is far more responsive to the wishes of Negro citizens than authorities in Oklahoma City.

Last week the police commissioner of Tulsa, Eddie Shields, appointed a Negro woman, Mrs. Mabel B. Horn, as police woman. Mrs. Horn will visit night spots and other places of amusement for the purpose of keeping children of tender years out of such places, and thus develop a better moral tone in the Greenwood area. 9-30-39

Recently the Black Dispatch carried a story telling of 12 and 14 year-old girls running over East Second Street at two and three o'clock in the morning, and this condition continues. Nothing is being done about it, and the community sits complacently knowing this condition to fester and grow.

When Commissioner Shields gave the oath of office to police woman Horn he called attention to deplorable conditions in Tulsa, relating to complaints that high school girls were going to places during class periods of questionable character.

In the light of what has happened in recent years around Douglass school the Black Dispatch cannot see why a live, aggressive parent-teachers' association would not demand some sort of assistance from the police department in Oklahoma City. There is no need to detail, or retell what has previously happened regarding delinquencies of high school girls in Oklahoma City. A real live Negro police woman could handle this situation far more effectively than any male officer.

The Tulsa police department has always been far in advance of the Oklahoma City department in giving recognition to the Negro districts. Negro traffic officers serve at busy intersections and around schools, and are distinguished for the motor cycles they ride. Negro officers ride in scout cars, identified as scout cars, just as do white scout car officers.

The thing that is wrong in Oklahoma City is that we make no concerted and organized demand for advancement. During campaign time the taxpayers split in a dozen different directions. The result is that no one suffers but Negroes. Let's wake up and make some worth-while demands for improvement of conditions on the Eastside. We believe the new police chief will incline his ear to our wants and work out a progressive and advanced program of Negro police protection with the city manager.

Penna. Highway Safety School To Graduate 20

Twenty colored persons will be among those to be graduated from the Pennsylvania Cooperative Training School of Highway Safety when the school holds its first commencement exercises Tuesday, January 10, in Fleisher Auditorium.

The course is being conducted under auspices of the Pennsylvania Motor Police, in cooperation with the WPA Education-Recreation Program.

Colored Policemen

NO RECITAL of the heroic deeds performed by members of the local Bureau of Police would be complete or historically accurate if the exploits of its colored members were omitted.

There is not room in this editorial for mentioning particular instances. But it is common knowledge that hardly a year passes by in which some colored member of the police force does not add lustre to the department's annals by some heroic and thrilling exploit. *Philadelphia Tribune*

They render service not a whit less commendable than that of their fellow members of fairer hue, under great difficulties both within and without the Bureau. They risk their lives fearlessly knowing that, within the Bureau, the door of promotion is, for the most part, shut in their faces; and that even public-spirited agencies which reward deeds of heroism will reserve their applause and tangible recognition for their white fellow officers. *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Philadelphia, third city of the United States, lags far behind New York and Chicago in the recognition it gives to colored policemen. In those two cities colored men may be found holding positions as captains, lieutenants, sergeants and first-grade detectives. *3-30-39*

What is worse is that in this city there seems to be a studied policy that will, if not changed, definitely eliminate colored policemen. Our readers will perhaps be surprised to know that a colored policeman has not been appointed since Lemuel B. Schofield was Director of Public Safety—almost TEN years ago.

Every vacancy caused by the resignation, dismissal or death of a colored policeman has been filled by a white appointee. From a high point of about 300 colored policemen, we now have about 175, and nearly all of them patrolmen.

Here is another problem which our political and civic leaders must tackle: the inclusion of an appreciable number of colored men in any list of future appointments. With the balancing of the city budget, following on the Supreme Court's okeh of the sale of gas-lease rentals, there may be new appointments, as many as 375. Fifty to 75 of these "rookies" should be colored. On the present eligible list are many colored men with high school and college training. They have all the requirements and should not be discriminated against.

Finally, the authorities in the Bureau would be performing a public service if they would promote several of the colored men now on the force to house sergeants, street sergeants, detectives and at least two captains.

PHILLY FIREMAN CITED



OCTAVIUS REID, a rookie of the Philadelphia fire department, who received a medal for heroism when he rescued a 16-month-old baby from a icy pond in January, while on duty. Reid is shown receiving the medal from Captain Ross P. Davis of the department.

Colored Firemen's History Credit To Philadelphia's Fire Department Record

By KENTON B. JACKSON

SMOKE gushes from windows of a Philadelphia home. To the rescue go members of Philadelphia's fire department. Up the ladder to a smoke-filled room where fire licks its angry tongues of flame out at another prospective victim. But the flames are foiled by one of the city's finest who, at the risk of his life, climbs through the window and brings the screaming child to safety.

While the fireman is on his way up the ladder the mother of the child cares not the color, race, or creed of the man who is about to rescue her offspring....her main interest is the safety of her own flesh and blood. Negroes in the fire department in this city have made a definite contribution dating from 1857.

It will be well to pause for a moment and look at the progress that colored firemen have made.

On July 7, 1857, 82 years ago, a four-story building caught fire at 5th and Market streets. Smoke gushed from the structure, and several volunteer companies responded to the scene of the conflagration with wagons filled with water. Among the men were several Negroes.

The fire was extinguished after an 18-hour battle. The volunteer firemen, exhausted and hungry lounged around while hundreds of spectators busied themselves preparing cool drinks and sandwiches to quench their thirst and appease a whetted appetite. Negroes were shown every courtesy by the whites as they battled side by side with them to save one of the city's most modern edifices of its day.

HAVE WON RESPECT

From that performance under the blazing July sun Negroes have won the respect and admiration everywhere firemen are spoken of. That incident paved the way for our first Negro regular fireman, Isaac Jacobs who served from April 13, 1886, to November 24, 1890. Stephen Prescoe was the next to join the fire department and he served until March 7th, 1907. Both of these men served in a mixed fire company at 1035 Lombard street, which is known as Engine Company No. 11. In 1902 the company was removed to South street near Tenth as its present location.

The first of the present day fireman was Hoseman James Davis, what at the behest of the late William Makel, of South street near Sixteenth, headed a committee who called on Mayor Thomas B. Smith in 1916. After a year's struggle Davis was appointed in 1917 and made a splendid record in the fire department.

Negroes appointed to the Department have always been assigned to

Engine Company No. 11 and as more were appointed the white members of the company were transferred to other locations.

SECOND MEMBER

Following Davis into the department came Hoseman Peter Graham who was appointed November 20, 1919. Davis whose re-

3 Are Assigned To White Stations

Three Negro firemen, all attached to Engine Company No. 11, this week were assigned to temporary duty for two days each to white companies. They are Hosemen Thomas Seldon, Howard Fagan and Octavius Reed.

The men were assigned by Deputy Chief Charles A. Gill, in charge of personnel, to duty at Engine Company No. 48, 7th and Carpenter streets. Battalion Chief Morris Horan reported that the men performed a splendid duty and were a "credit to the department."

cord is replete with commendations was elevated to the rank of lieutenant October 16, 1936, and was elevated to provisional captain September 11, 1938.

Captain Graham was raised to the rank of lieutenant January 1, 1931, and to captain September 1, 1936. The third ranking officer in the department is Lieut. Samuel Singleton appointed to that commission September 27, 1938. Prior to April 1, 1938,

there were but two officers and 15 hosemen at Engine Company No. 11, today there are three officers and 24 hosemen.

But that is not what it should be yet. There should be some provision that Negroes who pass the civil service examination and are on the eligible list could be assigned to ANY station where-

ever there may be vacancy. Negroes are qualified to work anywhere and this was proved recently by the statement of Deputy Chief Charles A. Gill in charge of personnel, when he addressed the 1939 graduating class at the Fire Training School. Said Gill, "Engine Company Number 11 is one of the best companies in the city and can be relied upon at all times under any conditions. I am particularly proud of their record."

Proof that Negroes can get along with other firemen was presented this week when Deputy Chief Gill detailed three Negroes to white fire houses under the supervision of Battalion Chief Morris Horan. The hosemen who were assigned are Thomas Seldon, Howard Fagan and Octavius Reed. They were sent to Engine Company No. 48 at 7th and Carpenter streets, where they performed duties in first-class manner.

"Reed interviewed by this writer said, "They treated me fine. In the afternoon when it got hot several of the boys made iced tea for me and they were real chummy. They are a great bunch of fellows around there."

This is conclusive proof that if Negroes are given a chance in mixed companies they can perform their duties well. The white firemen didn't object to having the Negroes assigned to their company and when some of them were interviewed they said, "The men sent around here were all right. We got along fine."

In New York the highest ranking Negro fireman in the country can be seen doing his duty. He is Battalion Chief Wesley Williams who has charge of eight fire companies. He is representative Negro and has proved that when Negroes are given an equal opportunity they can perform their duty with credit.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
February 19, 1939

More Policemen Not Considered At Present Time

Question of Negro Officers Already Disposed of by City Manager

The answer of Col. Charles B. Borland, City Manager and Director of Public Safety, already has been given to the request of the Norfolk Central Labor Union for the appointment of five Negro policemen for special duty in certain sections of the city.

"The question of making any further additions to the city payroll can not be considered at this time," the City Manager advised the Council February 7.

He was at that time reporting on the request of Negro Elks for the appointment of a Negro probation officer and six or more Negro policemen. The council received and filed his report, with the recommendation that it be considered again when the 1940 budget is being prepared.

When asked yesterday for his reaction to the petition of the Central Labor Union for Negro policemen—suggested as a means of curbing "yoking" and other crimes in Negro sections—Colonel Borland replied, "I've already answered that," and referred to the Negro Elks petition.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
February 18, 1939

Labor Wants Negro Police To Halt Crime

Central Body Favors Naming Five to Work in Re- stricted Sections

At the meeting of the City Council next Tuesday, a request from the Norfolk Central Labor Union for the appointment of five Negroes for special police duty in certain sections of the city will be submitted.

The labor body, last Monday, adopted a resolution submitted by representatives of a Negro longshoremen's union requesting that

the city authorities name five members of their race to do police duty in the Negro sections in the hope that crime can be ended, or, at least curtailed.

The resolution states that since there have been numerous crimes by "yokers" and others in the Negro district, it is the opinion of the Central Labor Union that only by the naming of Negro officers of the law can the lawbreakers be brought to justice.

It is proposed to have five Negroes named for detective duty. They would be in plain clothes and would be assigned to duty only in the Negro sections.

C. R. Bryant, president of the Central Labor Union, when asked

about the resolution last night, said he was authorized to make a statement for publication. H. W. Furlow, secretary of the union, could not be reached.

It was learned, however, on good authority that the resolution was adopted without a vote being recorded against it. An attempt to have it referred to the executive committee was defeated and a motion to lay it on the table met a similar fate.

There are about 19 Negro delegates in the Central Labor Union and their votes are sought by two factions among the white delegates, it is reported, which alternate in controlling the affairs of organized labor in Norfolk.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
November 22, 1939

Norfolk Officials Are Silent Over Negro's Police Job Suit

NORFOLK, (AP)—No direct official comment was available at City Hall yesterday over the suit filed in Federal District Court by Ernest Wright, Negro, seeking to compel the city of Norfolk to grant Negroes the privilege of taking civil service examinations for places on the police force.

Members of the city council said, however, that the city has the right to employ whom it chooses for any position.

Wright, who filed an application to take the civil service examination October 21, for police patrolman but was not permitted to take the examination, brought his suit "for the benefit of himself and other qualified members of the Negro race who were and are denied lawful examinations for appointment as members of the division of police of the city of Norfolk."

Officials are Sued

His suit, filed by Frederic J. Thorogood, Negro attorney, was directed against C. Moran Barry, Commission; W. Taylor Johnson, and E. R. Willcox, members of the commission; Armistead Borland, secretary and City Manager Charles B. Borland.

Claiming that the denial is solely because of race and color, the plaintiff asks for a declaratory judgment of the plaintiff's rights and a permanent injunction restraining the commission and City Manager Borland from certifying successful candidates who passed the October 21 examination.

Wright, a resident of Norfolk for 20 years, filed an application with the Civil Service Commission early in October for the October 21 examination, the complaint sets forth, but on October 17 he was notified by the commission that it had reaffirmed its policy of accepting only white males for the examination.

93 Take Examination

Given once every two years, the examination was taken by 93 applicants in October and the eligible list is being prepared now to be ready by December 1, it was learned from Armistead Borland, the commission secretary.

Attempts to secure Negroes on the police force this year go back

to January 24 when a resolution was presented the council from Eureka Lodge No. 5, Negro Elks, asking for the appointment of Negro patrolmen and Negro probationary officers. The city manager reported to the council February 7 that the matter would be given consideration in the preparation of the 1940 budget.

The same request was laid before the council February 21 in a resolution from the Norfolk Central Labor Union and on March 21 by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Both were given the same reply as was given Eureka Lodge. This lodge came back subsequently to ask specifically for the appointment of five Negro patrolmen and two probation officers.

The 1940 budget which the City Council is considering now "contains no provisions for increasing the personnel of the Police Department or the number of probation officers, white or colored," City Manager Borland said.

Roanoke, Va., World News
November 21, 1939

Norfolk Negroes Sue For Right To Serve On City Police Force

NORFOLK, Nov. 21 (AP).—Seeking places on the Norfolk division of police through the right to take civil service examinations, negroes of Norfolk through Ernest Wright, negro, are seeking redress in the Federal District court.

Frederic James Thorogood, negro attorney, representing Wright, the Oriole Social and Beneficial club of Norfolk and the Norfolk chapter of the N. A. A. C. P., today filed a suit, seeking a permanent injunction restraining the civil service commission and City Manager Charles B. Borland from certifying successful candidates who passed the examination held on October 21, 1939.

Wright is suing for the benefit of himself and others, members of the negro race, who were denied examination for applications as members of the division of police.

Wright, according to the suit, applied early in October for civil service papers, announcing his

desire to take the examination. He was given the papers and in due time filled them out and mailed them back to the commission.

Shortly after Wright received his papers, other negroes, darker in color than Wright, the plaintiff claimed, requested papers and were denied, the plaintiff alleges, being advised that only white males were eligible to take the examination.

The city school board today filed its answer to a suit brought by a negro school teacher seeking equal pay with white teachers. The board held the Federal court was without jurisdiction.